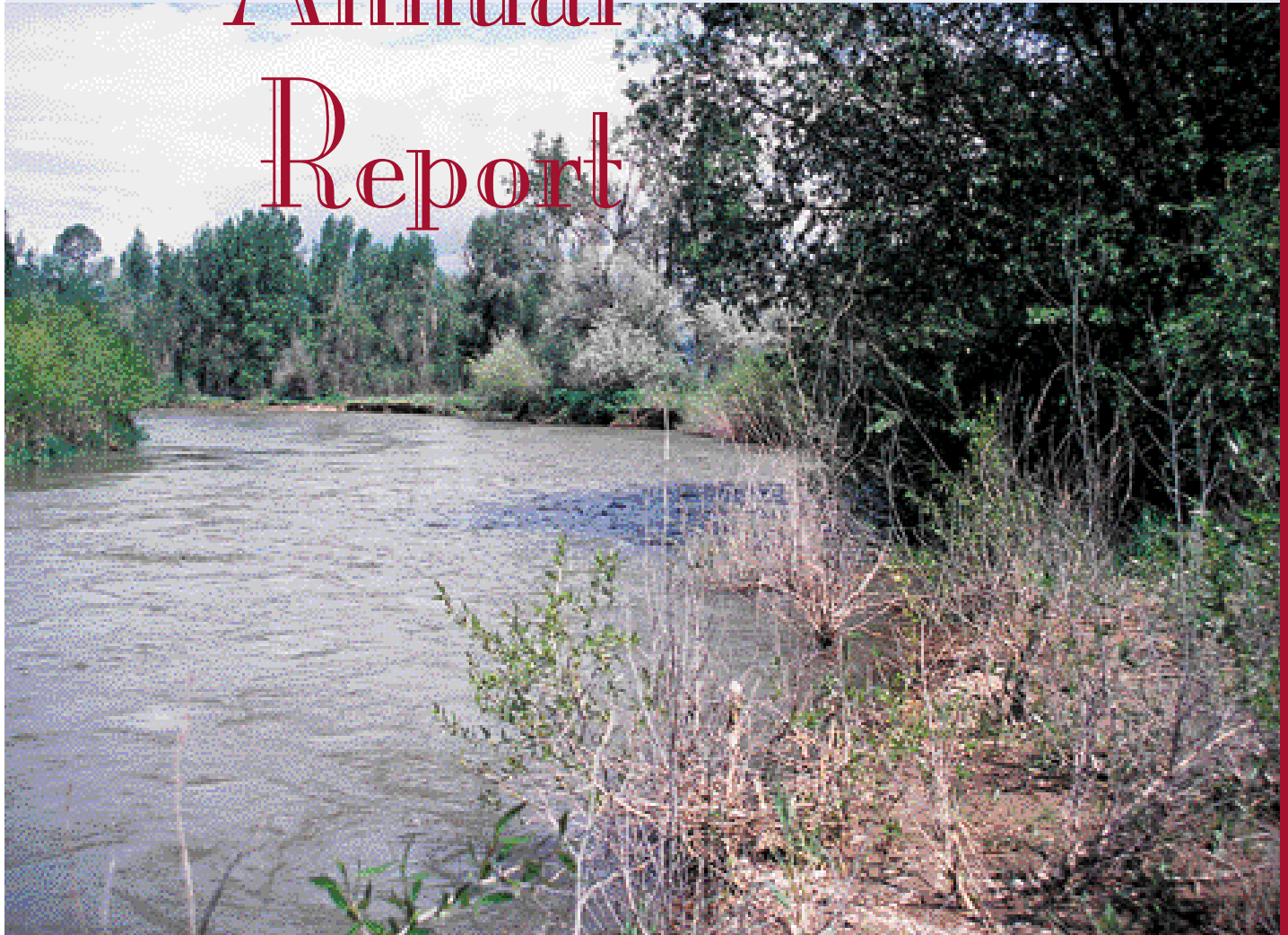
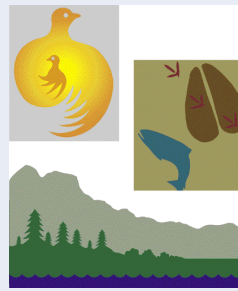
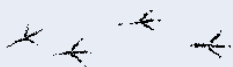


The Habitat Annual Report

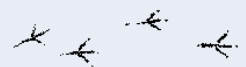


Weber River Acquisition Project

2000



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources



Habitat Annual Report 2000



Legislative Authority

In 1995, the Utah Legislature made a long-term commitment to fish and wildlife conservation in Utah with the passage of legislation establishing the Wildlife Habitat Program. The bill established a separate account within the Division of Wildlife Resources and directed the Division to use the funds to benefit wildlife habitat and improve public access for hunting and fishing. Funding was provided through the sale of Habitat Authorizations; special

certificates that hunters, anglers and other wildlife enthusiasts would be required to purchase along with their licenses, permits, stamps, certificates of registration, and Wildlife Heritage certificates. In addition, the Habitat Council was created to provide guidance to the Division in the use of Wildlife Habitat Account monies. The council is comprised of four DWR program administrators and four citizen representatives, and it meets regularly to review project proposals.

Region	Upland Game	Waterfowl	Big Game	Fisheries	Native Species	Other	Expenditures
Salt Lake Office	\$90,374.96	\$23,422.10	\$120,437.40	\$53,437.92	\$100,000.00	\$105,672.27	\$493,344.65
Northern	\$8,852.71	\$60,264.21	\$35,957.85	\$565,933.37		\$24,231.12	\$695,239.26
Northeastern	\$10,387.15	\$1,177.03	\$14,750.99	\$83,714.18		\$33,987.67	\$144,017.02
Central	\$36,322.40	\$20,751.94	\$10,500.00	\$51,213.16		\$12,354.79	\$131,142.29
Southern	\$112,770.10	\$148,796.80	\$8,199.82	\$118,669.38		\$50,058.56	\$438,494.66
Southeastern	\$12,676.89	\$13,806.47	\$15,269.26	\$81,138.81		\$31,210.20	\$154,101.63
Total	\$271,384.21	\$268,218.55	\$205,115.32	\$954,106.82	\$100,000.00	\$257,514.61	\$2,056,339.51
Percent of Total	13%	13%	10%	46%	05%	13%	

Legislation passed during the 2000 General Session will eliminate the requirement to purchase a separate authorization (effective 1/1/01), but funding for the program will continue. Beginning January 1, 2001, a portion of the revenue received from the sale of each license, permit, stamp, certificate of registration and Wildlife Heritage certificate will be placed in the Wildlife Habitat Account. The licence/permit fee schedule was adjusted by the Legislature to maintain annual account revenues at about \$2,150,000.



Salt Lake Office	Expenditures	Description
Habitat Administration	\$94,599	Program administration
Landowner Recognition/Adopt-A-WMA	\$500	Recognition program
Habitat Calendar	\$11,073	Annual report, outreach
Aquatic Nuisance Species Brochure	\$1,469	Information brochure
Waterfowl Program		
Special Projects	\$2,948	Emergency projects statewide
Heavy Equipment Crew Assistant	\$10,080	Seasonal employee
Range Trend Studies	\$16,000	Seasonal personnel - special proj.
Utah School & Institutional Trust Lands Adm.	\$207,875	SITLA access fee payment
Pheasant/Predator Study	\$48,800	Contract with USU
Endangered Species Mitigation Fund	\$50,000	Contribution to mitigation fund

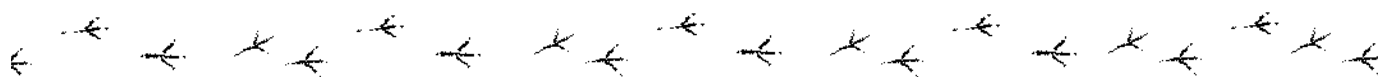


Figure 1a: Program expenditures by percentage

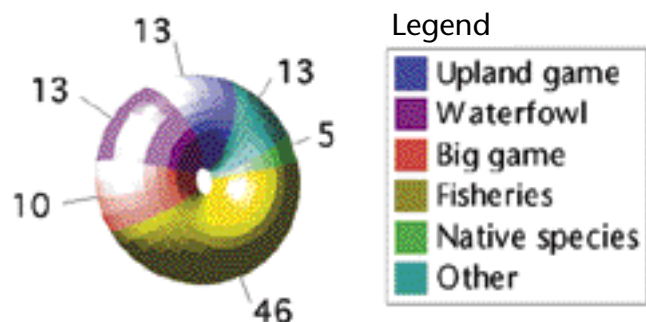
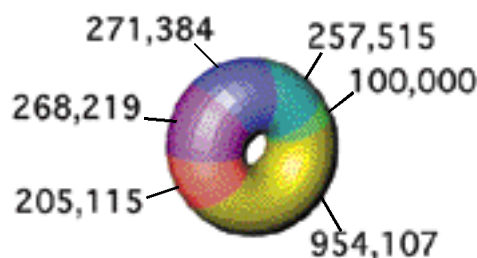


Figure 1b: Program expenditures by dollar amount



Kathleen Clarke, Director, Department of Natural Resources
 John Kimball, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources
 John Fairchild, Habitat Development Coordinator
 Nancy Fennern, Accountant for program
 Karen Jones, Clerical support

Habitat Council Members

Bill Christensen-Big game
 Maunsel B. Pearce-Wetlands/Waterfowl
 Jim Morkin-Aquatics
 Jack A. Rensel-Non-consumptive/Native species
 Bill James-Chair, Habitat Section Chief
 Randy Radant-Aquatics Section Chief
 Alan Clark-Wildlife Section Chief
 Mike Welch-Federal Aid Coordinator



Northern Region

Farmington Bay Bypass Canal

This project was proposed in the Intermountain West Joint Venture, Great Salt Lake Focus Area Plan, and was completed in 2000. The project will greatly improve water level management capability on 6,200 acres of wetland habitat at Farmington Bay WMA. The bypass canal will route high spring runoff around the WMA, allowing the superintendent to regulate water levels in the various units, an important tool for managing habitat for waterbirds. This was a cooperative project involving the Division, the Utah Reclamation, Mitigation, and Conservation Commission, Ducks Unlimited, and a grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Council.

Weber River Acquisition/Restoration

The recent acquisition of two properties along the Weber River provides public access to an additional mile of the river for fishing and wildlife viewing. River restoration work included bank stabilization, creation of deep pools, establishment of overhanging vegetation and stable underwater habitat (rootwads and large boulders), and productive riffles. The acquisitions are a continuation of a program to increase angler access and improve fish habitat along the Weber River, especially the stretch between the Peterson Bridge and the town of Morgan. In previous projects, the Division has funded river restoration projects on private lands in exchange for perpetual conservation easements.

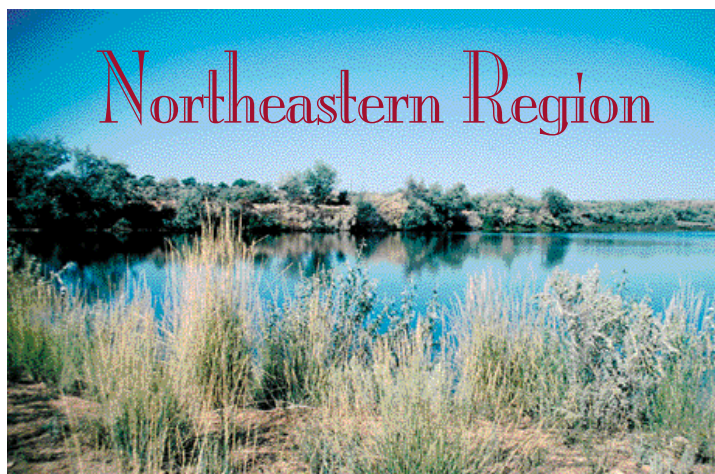
Henefer-Echo Burn Restoration

In August, 1999, about 3000 acres of critical deer winter range burned on the Henefer-Echo Wildlife Management Area. The habitat restoration project involved

Northern Region	Expenditures	Description
Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area		
Bypass Canal	\$40,000	Canal construction
Gillmor Property Restoration	\$5,775	Property survey, fence construction
Seasonal Personnel	\$5,987	WMA maintenance activities
Weber River Projects		
Cooperative Project with Ogden City	\$6,000	River restoration
Croft Property Conservation Easement	\$12,117	Easement expenses
Croft Property Acquisition	\$153,162	Land acquisition
Garside Property Acquisition	\$220,778	Land acquisition
Garside Property Restoration	\$27,860	River restoration
Parson Property Restoration - Phase I	\$50,000	River restoration
Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area		
Upland Game Habitat Dev.	\$2,280	Seeding, irrigation
Seasonal Personnel	\$2,554	WMA maintenance activities
Public/Salt Creek/Locomotive Springs		
Carp Control	\$3,000	Rotenone treatment
Seasonal Personnel	\$7,689	WMA maintenance activities
Henefer-Echo Wildlife Management Area (WMA)	\$24,320	Seeding project on 3000-acre burn
Regional Browse Plantings - volunteer labor	\$7,623	Shrub/tree plantings
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Projects	\$47,300	Seed contributions in Box Elder Co.
Regional WMA Maintenance Projects		
Materials, Equipment Rental, etc.	\$23,830	Fences, signs, roads, weed control
Seasonal Personnel	\$7,809	WMA maintenance activities



seedbed preparation (dragging an anchor chain between two crawler tractors over about 2000 acres) followed by an aerial seeding of a mixture of grasses, forbs and shrubs. Seed dribblers mounted to the tractors were used to seed several important browse species. The dribblers “dribble” seed onto the tracks. As the tractor moves forward, the seed is pressed into the soil. The Lost Creek Foundation contributed \$15,000 worth of forage kochia seed for this project.



Montes Creek Acquisition

The Division made the second of three payments on the purchase of the Montes Creek Pond and the surrounding property (approximately 175 acres). The pond will be developed into a recreational warmwater fishery, and the area will be managed for upland game, waterfowl and a variety of nongame species. The high value riparian area along Montes Creek offers excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing.

Green River Corridor Burn

Over the past 15 years, the DWR, BLM and the Forest Service have carried out prescribed burns in dense stands of pinyon-juniper woodlands along the Green River Corridor to provide habitat for a growing herd of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep. In the fall of 1999, personnel from the Manila District of the Ashley National Forest burned an additional 200 acres of woodlands. The area was aerially seeded in March, 2000. Financial support for the project was received from the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.

Northeastern Region	Expenditures	Description
Montes Creek WMA	\$67,179	Land acquisition (2nd payment)
Fourmile/Sandwash Guzzlers	\$6,676	Materials for guzzler construction
Book Cliffs Habitat Management Plan	\$15,000	BLM-DWR Cooperative Project
Mallard Springs WMA	\$3,000	Pothole development
Green River Corridor Prescribed Burn	\$10,180	Seed, aerial application
Browns Park Waterfowl Management Area		
Noxious Weed Control	\$453	Herbicides
Seasonal Personnel	\$4,435	WMA maintenance activities
Regional WMA Maintenance Projects		
Materials, Equipment Rental, etc.	\$33,988	Fences, signs, roads, weed control WMA maintenance activities
Seasonal Personnel		
Duchesne County WMAs	\$10,074	
Book Cliffs WMAs	\$6,212	

Tabby Mountain Access Management

Earlier this year, the Duchesne County Commission passed an ordinance to allow the Division to seasonally close public roads on the Tabby Mountain Wildlife Management Area. A seasonal closure during the winter will limit disturbance of big game on their winter range, and reduce damage to the public roads on the unit. In May and June, the Division's heavy equipment crew maintained many of these roads and closed a few roads that were established by off-road users in recent years. The closed roads were seeded to restore habitat.

Mallard Springs Pothole Development

The Mallard Springs Wildlife Management Area is located in Duchesne County approximately 1.5 miles southeast of Myton, Utah. The 270-acre WMA was purchased in 1993 to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and upland game. Current use by waterfowl during migration and nesting seasons is limited due to the lack of open water. This project will be evaluated to determine if pothole development is a viable option for improving waterfowl habitat on the unit.



Central Region

Thistle Creek Restoration

The Division completed a stream restoration/angler access project along a one-mile section of Thistle Creek. Rock vanes were installed in the stream channel to deflect flows away from the banks. The steeply eroded banks were graded and planted with cottonwoods and willows. Angler access points were signed, and fence stiles were installed to provide access from Highway 89. The project was carried out with financial support from the landowner, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Partners for Fish and Wildlife" program and the Department of the Interior. The project is a demonstration site for the Spanish Fork River Coordinated Resource Management Program, a cooperative resource conservation effort involving the Timp-Nebo Soil Conservation District, private landowners, various conservation organizations, local governments and state and federal agencies.

West Desert Guzzlers

Establishing and maintaining water for wildlife in Utah's West Desert mountain ranges continues to be a high priority pro-

Central Region	Expenditures	Description
Thistle Creek Restoration		
Hubbs Property	\$16,963	Stream restoration, tree and shrub plantings
Evans Property	\$11,505	Stream restoration, tree and shrub plantings
Hall Property	\$9,737	Stockpiling rocks for restoration project
Timpanogos Wetland Joint Venture	\$10,490	Plan preparation for wetland enhancement
West Desert Guzzlers	\$10,986	Materials for guzzler construction
Sanpete County Habitat Leases	\$16,244	Pheasant habitat protection on private lands
Stream Restoration Workshop	\$1,295	Training for regional biologist
Mona Springs	\$749	Materials for fencing project
Provo River Access	\$5,000	Access leased at Deer Creek Campground
CRP Projects	\$45,000	Seed contributions regionwide
Clover Creek	\$18,425	Seed contributions to private landowners
Regional WMA Maintenance		
Materials, Equipment Rental, etc.	\$12,355	Fences, signs, roads
Seasonal Personnel	\$24,497	WMA maintenance activities
Noxious Weed Control - WMAs	\$11,320	Labor, herbicide, supplies, vehicle rental

gram in the Central Region. Guzzler construction and maintenance activities were carried out by regional personnel. Installation of upland game guzzlers on the Lakeside and Grassy Mountains was completed in the fall of 1999. Although strategically located to benefit chukar populations, these projects will also benefit small mammals and nongame birds.

Southern Region

East Fork Sevier River Restoration

An 8.5-mile reach of the East Fork of the Sevier River, located just south of Antimony, has been rated a high priority fishery by regional biologists. Several projects have been carried out by the Division in this area to protect and enhance trout habitat and to increase angler access. Within this reach, the Division has acquired three separate parcels of land, totaling about 600 acres, and has secured a perpetual conservation easement on an additional 17 acres. Ownership along this stream section is divided among pri-



vate landowners (3 miles), BLM (2.25 miles) and the Division (3.25 miles). Stream restoration work has involved a cooperative effort by landowners, the BLM (Escalante Resource Area) and the Division. Restoration work carried out in 2000 was completed on BLM land using the Division's Habitat Construction Crew, with financial support from the BLM.

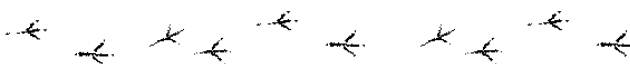
Redmond Marsh

The Division made the second of three payments on a conservation easement that protects wildlife habitat on 567 acres of important wet-

lands along the Sevier River, northwest of Salina. This is a cooperative project involving The Nature Conservancy and the private landowner. The unit is currently rested from livestock grazing. Future grazing will be based on an approved management plan. The final payment will be made in 2001, bringing the total cost of the easement to about \$760,000.

Fishlake-Monroe Mountain Big Game Project

The Division contributed seed for a project carried out by the Forest Service to improve big game habitat on approximately 500 acres on the Fishlake National Forest. Decadent stands of big sagebrush were thinned and seeded by dragging a Dixie harrow behind a tractor and broadcast seeding the disturbed areas. The project will provide additional forage for big game, especially elk, during the spring and fall, and during mild winters.



Southern Region	Expenditures	Description
East Fork Sevier River	\$14,690	Stream restoration project with BLM
Wahweap Creek	\$11,441	Streambank stabilization project
West Desert Guzzlers	\$14,425	Materials for upland game guzzlers
Redmond WMA	\$292,011	Land acquisition (2nd payment)
Upland Game Projects	\$15,504	Habitat improvements on WMAs
Skyline Drive Fishing Pond (St. George)	\$6,689	Fencing materials
Fishlake/Monroe Mtn.	\$15,000	Seed given to U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Stream Restoration Workshop	\$1,659	Training for regional biologist
Regional WMA Maintenance		
Materials, Equipment Rental, etc.	\$50,059	Fences, signs, roads, weed control
Seasonal Personnel	\$25,735	WMA maintenance activities
Clear Lake/Topaz/Pahvant/Bicknell WMAs		
Seasonal Personnel	\$5,943	WMA maintenance activities



Gunnison Sage Grouse Conservation Easement

The Division is pursuing a conservation easement on 2,246 acres of private land in San Juan County. Lease payments totaling \$100,000 have been made that will apply to the purchase price of the conservation easement (\$50,000 payment made in 1999). This is a cooperative project involving Mid-America Pipeline Co., The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Division and the landowners. The area has been identified as critical habitat for a struggling population of Gunnison sage grouse. One of the largest known strutting grounds is located in the middle of the property.

Southeastern Region	Expenditures	Description
Adams Property Conservation Easement	\$50,000	Lease/Option payment - sage grouse habitat
Scofield Reservoir Angler Access	\$17,083	Parking area, fencing, signs
Straight Canyon Angler Access	\$6,870	Hwy 29 parking turnout, signs
Huntington Canyon Watershed	\$41,957	Streambank restoration co-op with USFS
San Juan County CRP	\$26,324	Seed contributions to landowners
Knowles Ranch Upland Game	\$1,300	Food plots, irrigation, weed control
Sego Trailhead	\$538	Trailhead maintenance
Nash Wash Restoration	\$1,648	Tree and shrub plantings
Desert Lake Waterfowl Management Area		
Noxious Weed Control	\$4,008	Herbicide application
Farm Tractor	\$7,333	Tractor purchased for habitat projects
Regional WMA Maintenance		
Materials, Equipment Rental, etc.	\$30,672	Fences, signs, roads, weed control
Seasonal Personnel	\$17,034	WMA maintenance activities
Habitat Biologist Position	\$22,962	Carried out regional habitat dev. program

Scofield Reservoir Angler Access

Angler access is a high priority at Scofield Reservoir. Although most of the property on the west side of the reservoir is privately owned, anglers have been able to access most of the shoreline to fish. However, with an increase in fishing pressure, landowners have begun to express concern over the amount of property damage that is occurring on their land. To preserve angler access, and protect the property rights of the landowners, the Division funded a project to restrict vehicle access to a developed parking area adjacent to the public road. Signs inform anglers that foot access is provided, and that they should pack out their trash.

Straight Canyon Angler Access

The DWR partnered with UDOT to provide fishing access turnouts along Hwy 29 below Joe's Valley Reservoir. The DWR funded improvements at one turnout, and UDOT covered the cost of developing three others. The project improves public safety on the highway, and increases parking capacity for anglers.

